DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

MAY 16 2007

Re: TYZEKA
Docket No. 2007E-0133
Docket No. 2007E-0148

The Honorable Jon Dudas
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Hatch-Waxman PTE
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Director Dudas:

This is in regard to the applications for patent term extension for U.S. Patent Nos. 6,395,716 and 6,569,837 filed by Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Centre National de La Recherche Scientifique, and L'Universite Montpellier II under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The human drug product claimed by the patents is TYZEKA (telbivudine), which was assigned new drug application (NDA) No. 22-011.

A review of the Food and Drug Administration's official records indicates that this product was subject to a regulatory review period before its commercial marketing or use, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 156(a)(4). Our records also indicate that it represents the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product, as defined under 35 U.S.C. § 156(f)(1), and interpreted by the courts in *Glaxo Operations UK Ltd. v. Quigg*, 706 F. Supp. 1224 (E.D. Va. 1989), *aff'd*, 894 F. 2d 392 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

The NDA was approved on October 25, 2006, which makes the submission of the patent term extension applications on December 21, 2006, timely within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(1).

Should you conclude that the subject patents are eligible for patent term extension, please advise us accordingly. As required by 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A) we will then determine the applicable regulatory review period, publish the determination in the *Federal Register*, and notify you of our determination.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Jane A. Axelrad

Jane A. Axelrad
Associate Director for Policy
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: James D. Johnson, Ph.D.
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